

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~decreasing serum triglycerides, of treating the metabolic syndrome or~~ treating obesity comprising co-administering to a patient in need thereof an effective dosage of a PPAR $\alpha$  agonist and metformin.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is a fibrate selected from the group consisting of gemfibrozil, fenofibrate, bezafibrate, clofibrate and ciprofibrate, a fibric acid derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester of said fibric acid derivative.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the fibrate is fenofibrate, fenofibric acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester of fenofibric acid.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 11 to 13~~ claim 11, wherein the effective dosage of the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is in the range of about 10 to about 3000 mg per day.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 11 to 14~~ claim 11, wherein the effective dosage of metformin is in the range of about 10 to about 3000 mg per day.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 11 to 15~~ claim 11, wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist and metformin are administered simultaneously.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 11 to 15~~ claim 11,  
wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist and metformin are administered sequentially.